

# Syracuse University Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** November 19, 2025

**Meeting Time:** 12:03 PM - 1:05 PM

**Meeting Location:** 020 Lyman Hall and Zoom

**Members Present:** Roy Welch, Chair, Biology Faculty  
Tim Coughlin, Biosafety Officer  
Anthony Bianchi, Non-affiliated  
Dave Larsen, Public Health Faculty  
Jessica MacDonald, Biology Faculty  
Zhen Ma, BMCE Faculty  
Karen Nardella, Director of Student Health Services  
Becky Ponza, Director of EHSS (Ex-Officio)  
Tracy Crompt, Director of ORIP (Ex-Officio)

**Members Absent:** Tom Brody, Non-affiliated  
Rob Doyle, Chemistry Faculty  
Michelle Sieburg, Biology Lab Manager

**Guest(s)** Weijun Gui, Chemistry Faculty  
Zehui Han, Engineering Graduate Student (Ren Lab)  
Joe Hernon, AVP, Emergency & Environmental Risk Services

## Quorum Status

Quorum achieved (minimum 6 members required)

Quorum not achieved

---

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 25, 2025 meeting were:

Approved as submitted  Approved with amendments  Deferred for revision

**Amendments/Comments:** None

---

## OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES

1. Michelle Seiburg, Lab Manager from Biology, and a Voting Member resigned from the IBC after 9 years of service. Thuy Dao (from Biology - Castaneda Lab Manager) is the recommended replacement.
2. Tim Coughlin called for Non-Affiliated Member vacancy appointment recommendations.

Several Committee members offered to reach out to faculty at Update Medical University to see if there is interest in serving on the IBC. Tim Coughlin will follow up with any interested perspective member.

3. Tim Coughlin provided the Committee with an overview of the new NIH public accessibility policy. Institutions must now post IBC approved meeting minutes online. According to the NIH, some redactions of information from minutes before posting are appropriate.

The Committee discussed standardizing the minutes to include key information from each application review and discussion. Tim Coughlin will draft the November meeting minutes to include the standardized language and format discussed.

---

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **I. Review of New Applications**

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Weijun Gui's new application, 25-019.

#### Summary

Dr. Gui was present and provided an overview of his proposed research. The goal of the project is to study ubiquitination level of target proteins (p53, cGAS). Established human cell lines will be transiently transfected using lipofectamine to produce target proteins. Cells will be lysed, and proteins purified to study ubiquitinase and deubiquitinase activity. Chemical compounds will be synthesized in the lab for testing the removal of ubiquitin from target proteins. Protein levels will be determined by Western blotting.

#### NIH Guidelines Applicability

This research involves recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, that fall within the category of the NIH Guidelines Section III-F-8, Appendix C-I.

#### Assigned Biosafety Level

All research will be conducted in a dedicated BSL2 laboratory using biosafety level 2 practices.

#### Discussion

A motion was made to approve the application as is.

#### Vote

- Approved as submitted
- Approved with modifications (list below)
- Tabled pending additional information
- Disapproved

### **II. Review of Application Amendments and Renewals**

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Eric Finkelstein's Amendment 24-016A1.

#### Summary

This amendment includes experiments from previously approved application, 24-016.

The amendment includes decommissioning and disposal of the cell sorter equipment and relocation of flow cytometer to another building. The amendment also establishes a sample transport policy to help ensure safe transport of samples to the new flow cytometer location. In addition, the amendment removes Dacheng Ren as the Co-Principal Investigator.

#### Discussion

A motion was made to approve the application amendment as is.

#### Vote

- Approved as submitted
- Approved with modifications (list below)
- Tabled pending additional information
- Disapproved

---

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Ren's request to send samples that contain inactivated Escherichia coli (E. Coli) to an environmental SEM Core facility. The Lab will prepare the samples with a "fixative" solution to inactivate the E. Coli prior to shipment.

Ren Lab member, Zehui Han was present and provided an overview of the inactivation protocol and shared results of a validation study confirming fixed sample are inactivated.

#### Discussion

A motion was made to have the BSO draft an email to the Ren lab indicating the IBC has reviewed the proposed inactivation protocol and determined the chemicals and procedures listed will be sufficient to inactivate E. coli.

#### Vote

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

---

### **Adjournment**

1. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:05 PM.

---

### **Minutes Prepared By**

Name: Tim Coughlin

Title: Associate Director of Research Safety

Date: December 1, 2025